



Chief Brad Smith
Derby Fire & Rescue Department
611 Mulberry
Derby, Ks. 67037
316-788-4435

October 16, 2017

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom It May Concern;

The Sedgwick County Emergency Communications Advisory board consists of the Sedgwick County Sheriff, Sedgwick County Fire Chief, Director of Sedgwick County Emergency Medical Services, Director of Sedgwick County Emergency Management, City of Wichita Police Chief, City of Wichita Fire Chief, City of Derby Police Chief, City of Derby Fire Chief, a representative of Suburban Fire Departments, which is currently held by the City of Colwich Fire Chief, a representative of Suburban Police Departments, which is currently held by the City of Haysville Police Chief, a designee of the Sedgwick County Manager, which is currently held by the Sedgwick County CIO, and a designee by the Wichita City Manager, which is currently vacant. The purpose of the board is to help protect and guide the critically important emergency services system, which starts with 911. Sedgwick County Emergency Communications operates a ten site, P-25 radio system with almost 10,000 registered users utilizing it. The health of the Sedgwick County radio system is a priority and our hope is that the FCC recognizes the importance of maintaining the integrity of this lifeline of public safety field personnel.

The Sedgwick County Emergency Communications Advisory Board would like to offer their support and agreement of the comments expressed by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, Inc. (APCO) with regards to Expanding Flexible Use in Mid-Band Spectrum Between 3.7 and 24 GHz (GN Docket No. 17-183). The Sedgwick County public safety radio system operates a microwave system in the frequencies being considered for flexible use (specifically the 6.0-6.3 GHz range). It is our opinion that the likelihood of interference and failures in emergency communications greatly increases if these frequencies are opened to commercial entities. This Advisory Board also echoes the concern brought forth by APCO in that "permitting flexible use of the 6 GHz bands for wireless broadband could be detrimental to public safety communications" since the full implications of such expansion are not known and have not been tested at this point in time in our service area.

This Advisory Board has concerns that, as stated in APCO's response, permitted flexible use of the 6 GHz bands for wireless broadband will increase the likelihood of interference and failures in communication – failures that can be life threatening to our public safety professionals serving

our communities in the field. Identifying the source of said interference would be laborious, if not impossible at times, and this Advisory Board agrees that proven mechanisms for identifying and resolving interference must be in place before any flexible use should be allowed.

Furthermore, this Advisory Board agrees with APCO's concern that public safety licenses in the 6GHz bands lack viable alternatives. Emergency Communications microwave network operates in the 6GHz range because it is licensed and protected, which is needed when operating equipment that is our primary backbone for mission critical communications. This Advisory Board would ask that the Commission recognize the imperative for those licenses to remain protected.

We, the members of Sedgwick County Emergency Communications Advisory Board, urge the Federal Communications Commission to seek alternatives in the expansion of the flexible use of the mid-band spectrum between 3.7 and 24 GHz since protecting that range is vital to the health and safety of our community, our public safety field personnel, and our 911 emergency services.

Respectfully;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Smith".

Fire Chief Brad Smith

Chairman, Sedgwick County Emergency Communications Advisory Board

714 N. Main

Wichita, Ks. 67203